श्री अनंतराव देवशंकर दवेः सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि हमारे देश में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के संतुलित विकास के लिये आई०आर०डी०पी० और कई छोटी-मोटी योजनाएं चल रही हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इन सब की निरन्तर मानीटरिंग के लिये सरकार ने क्या कोई व्यवस्था की है? यदि हां, तो उस व्यवस्था का ब्यौरा क्या है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, many schemes are Centrally-sponsored schemes. ICDS is a scheme which is a Centrally-Sponsored scheme. Now it is the Government's view that most of the Centrally-sponsored schemes should be transferred to the control of the State Governments; that is also part of the principle of federalism. However, at the Chief Minister's Conference, most Chief Ministers expressed the view that Centrally-sponsored schemes should remain Centrally-sponsored schemes and they should get financial assistance, but they should remain Centrally-sponsored schemes. There is, of course, a divergent point of view. As hon. Members would know, I mentioned in my Budget Speech yesterday that while we respect the views of the Chief Ministers, it is the view of this Government that as far as possible most of the Centrally-sponsored scheme should be transferred to the control of the State Governments. A part from these schemes on which there is a divergent point of view, we intend to take on other anti-poverty programmes, fix an entitlement ratio for each State and distribute the funds allocated to the States according to the entitlement ratio. We believe that the State Governments must bear the primary responsibility for implementing these programmes. These are welfare programmes. The Government which is closest to the people is the State Government and only if they bear the primary responsibility will there be accountability; people can also demand from the State Government why these programmes are functioning well in one State and why they are functioning well in another State. These are matters under discussion. The Planning commission is drawing up revised guidelines, as I said yesterday. Once these revised gudelines are drawn up,they will be placed before the House and they will be circulated to the State Governments. I think transferring most Centrally-sponsored schemes and most anti-poverty programmes to the State Governments will ensure better control, better monitoring and better accountability.

Emergence of India as a Transit Point in Narcotic Smuggling

*182. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is fast emerging as the single most important transit point in narcotic smuggling as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 28th May, 1996;

(b) if so,the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A Statment is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) India has traditionally been a transit country for drug trafficking owing to its geographical proximity to South West Asian and South East Asian major narcotic drugs producing regions. As drug trafficking is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether the transit traffic is increasing or decreasing. However, in recent times owing to major sustained efforts by the enforcement agencies large seizures of drugs have been made.

The details of seizures effected during 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto June) (provisional) are given below:

Drugs
(Qty, In Kg.)

1994	1995	1996	(upto June) (Prov.)
Heroin	1011	1678	672
Hashish	6992	3629	4579
Metha/Qualone	45319	20485	5
Opium	2256	1339	1064
Ganja	187896	121873	19349

(c) The Government of India has taken a series of measures to curb transit traffic of drugs through the country.

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Sir, my first supplementary is whether it is a fact that the estimated 60 per cent of drugs being smuggled into America and Europe, originating from Burma, Thailand and Laos, is being routed through India, particularly Mumbai; whether it is also a fact that drugs smuggled from Latin American countries are routed through Delhi to Japan, Korea and South East Asian countries and for that smuggling deserted ports along the Maharashtra and Gujarat borders are being used. What action has the Government taken and what are the details and the results thereof?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, smuggling is a clandestine activity. I cannot put a figure or the percentage of the quantity that passes through India or touches India. But, I admit that because of India's georgraphic location we are specially vulnerable to smuggling. The one major area is what is called the 'golden crescent'—Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran and the other is the 'golden triangle' — Myanmar, Thailand and Laos. We are placed right between the golden triangle and the golden crescent. Therefore, we are vulnerable. It is also true that the traffic reaches as far as North America, or perhaps even Latin America. We have taken very strict measures and we have achieved substantial results. I have given the results in the answer. But, it will be difficult for me to put a figure like 60% or any percentage which touches or passes through India. As I said, it is a clandertine activity, and how do I put a specific figure on it?

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Sir, it has been said that it is an underground activity and we cannot give any figure. Otherwise also they have not taken steps. They have mentioned here that they have taken certain measures but they have not elaborated these measures. But they have given certain figures like seizures. Sir, this activity is going on and increasing. Certain people who are entrusted with checking it, they are also involved in it. I would like to know as to what action is being taken against them.

Sir, my second supplementary is whether it is a fact that in addition to being a transit point for smuggling of drugs, Mumbai is now an important centre for processing and refining drugs and a number of drug manufacturing dens have been mushrooming in Mumbai in the last two years. What is more alarming is that India may also develop as a major centre for consumption of these drugs. I would like to know as to

what stringent steps the Government is contemplating to take to curb this menace.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we have a very strict law. This law imposes very severe punishments. I can list various legislative and administrative measures that we have taken. For example, the legislative measure, a comprehensive law known as the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act, provides for a very deterrent punishment. Then we have the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and psychotropic Substances Act, which provides for preventive detention. This law of 1985, the Narcotics and Psychotropic Susbstances Act, was amended in 1988 and we tightened five provisions, making the drug offence non-bailable, pre-trial disposal of seized and confiscated drugs, creation of special courts, death penalty in certain cases and freezing and forfeiture of property used or acquired through illicit trafficking of drugs. Sir, with regard to administrative measures we have strengthened the Narcotics control Board. There are now a larger number of people in the Narcotics Control Bureau. The Bureau has six zonal units at Delhi, Varanasi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Madras and Jodhpur. There is a regional unit in Imphal. There is an intelligence unit at Trivandrum. We have strengthened the preventive machinery at borders. We have created narcotics cells in Customs and Central Excise Collectorate and police organisations. We have strengthened the preventive machinery in and around opium and poppy growing areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Special drug testing kits have been imported as well as developed indigenously and enforcement agencies have been equipped with these kits. We have bilateral agreements with a large number of countries for mutual cooperation and among the countries in the region are Myanmar, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. We have signed an MOU with Iran. We maintain close links with Interpol and other narcotics control boards of other countries. We have a special arrangement with Pakistan for coordination meetings at Secretaries leve land DGs' level once in six months. We have taken a number of measures. But, as the hon. Member knows, this is a very powerful mafia. Drug trafficking is not done by petty criminals. It is a very powerful international mafia. Even a country like the United States of America, with all its money, with all that equipment and resources, is unable to fight this mafia. We are doing our very best an we will continue to do our best. I will come before this House for amendments to the Act and at that stage we can have a fuller discussion on this very question. Now, I am just concerned with the steps that we have taken. We have set up now 95 special courts, 13 are functioning in Maharashtra, 10 in Delhi, 19 in Kerala, 20 in Karnataka. But the menace is quite alarming. We should take very deterrent steps and we will take steps.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, it is well known that smuggling of drugs necessitates large-scale deployment of foreign exchange and, of late, we have had reports that Indian mafia groups operating in London have linked up with international mafia gangs. And the same people who are involved in Hawala transactions are also involved. There is an overlap up between smugglers of narcotics and Hawala operators. In this connection, I would very respectfully query the Finance Minister about two measures which have recently been decided upon by his Ministry. One is the decision to make the non-repatriation of export earnings no longer a legal offence so that money earned on exports can be kept back in foreign countries and used for any kind of purpose. The second decision that the Ministry has taken is to further liberalise the floatation of the so-called Euro-dollars, global depositories,

issues, etc. etc. and permitting a large part of the proceeds from these issues not being repartriated home. Now I looked at some of the figures and I found that in 1995-96 of the total money raised in Euro-dollars, only 20 per cent was repatriated. What is the end use of the rest of the money? How am I to assure myself and my citizens that some of this money is not getting mixed in this kind of Hawala and smuggling operations? I know it is a very ticklish problem. But all I would request the Finance Minister is to keep an open mind and review some of the decisions he has already taken.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have great respect for the hon. Member's views. He is very knowledgeable on these matters. I have not yet personally looked into whether there is a connection between the recently exposed Hawala trasactions and the mafia which operates drugs traffic. But I will certainly look into it. I have not yet looked into in. On the other question about non-repatriation of export earnings, I am sorry, I do not know from where my learned friend got an impression that it is not an offence. It is an offence if anyone does not repatriate export earnings. All that we have said is, the commerce Ministry will no longer monitor it; but RBI will monitor it. There is no reason to monitor it in two places. The RBI feels confident that it can monitor repatriation of export earnings. Therefore, we felt that the Commerce Ministry ought not be duplicating that work.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will there not be a time-lag?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There would always be some time lag in repatriating export earnings. But what are the figures? I am talking from memory again. The figures are, over a period of 10 to 15 years, the cumulative figure of non-repatriated export earning is about Rs. 50,000 crores. That is a cumulative figure, not an annual figure. I think there will always be some cases where the importer does not pay, the bank guarantees canot be encashed or there is a commercial failure of a transaction. So I do not think we should exaggerate that. The RBI is confident that it has the situation under control, the amount of non-repatriated export earnings is quite small. But again we will look into it to see whether we can tighten that up. About the other question, again I am not sure, about the impression that I may have unwittingly given that GDR, ECB and FCCB issues can be kept abroad indefinetely. That is not quite right. We are very strict in granting GDR and ECB and FCCB permissions. There are strict end-use requirements. Earlier we had said, because there was a large inflow of capital, you can retain it until you can actually need to use it here. Now, I think we have given freedom to the companies which raise these funds abroad, to bring it in to India to meet the required capital expenditure. I think end-use requirements are strictly monitored.

These are companies. We should not mix up admitted illegitimate, illegal activity with legitimate corporate activity. I think, we cannot throw the baby with the bath water. While we should come down heavily upon illegitimate, illegal activity, we must also encourage Indian companies to raise capital abroad. But I will take the point and I will see whether there are loopholes; if there are loopholes, certainly, in consultation with the Governor of the Reserve Bank we will plug the loopholes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Maheshwar Singh.

श्री महेश्वर सिंहः सभापति, महोदय, यह तो सत्य है कि जब से लेकर इस देश में हिप्पियों का आना बढ़ा है या उनके आने में वृद्धि हुई है विशेषकर पहाड़ों का सारा वातावरण दूषित हुआ है और वहां के नौजवान आज ड्रग एडिक्ट हो रहे है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि जब से लेकर इन हिप्पियों का आना बढ़ा है पहाड़ों के अनेकों नौजवान आज गंगानगर, गोआ और दिल्ली की जेलों की

हवा खा रहे हैं? तो क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर विचार करेंगे कि इस प्रकार हिप्पियों के अंधा-धुंध आने पर रोक लगाई जाए?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Hippies were there in the 1960's and 1979's Hippies belong to an age which is now Jurassic Park. Young people the world over are more mobile today. Young people will travel. Young people will move from country to country. I do not think we should characterise them as Hippies. If anyone is involved in drug trafficking, certainly we should control them. We should encourage young people all over the world to travel to India. We should encourage young people in India to travel abroad also.

श्री महेश्वर सिंह: सभापति महोदय, सब से ज्यादा वह व्यापार करते हैं उनके आने पर रोक लगाइये।

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा कि यह ड्रग ट्रैफिकिंग क्लैडेस्टाइन है इसके लिए हमारे पास में कोई ब्यौरा नहीं है कि कितने परसेंट बढ़ गई या कम हो गई। पर सरकार के बहुत सारे दफ्तर ऐसे है जो इसको कंट्रोल करते हैं। जैसे नेशनल या सेन्ट्रल नारकोटिक्स बोर्ड है जो इसको पूरा वॉच करता है और हर जगह किया जा रहा है और अगर मंत्री महोदय को यह बात पता है तो फिर वेलफेयर मिनिस्ट्री जो ड्रग एब्यूज़ के खिलाफ या ड्रग एडिक्ट री-हेब्लिटेशन सेन्टर किस आधार पर शुरू करती है? यह तो जरूर है कि सरकार के पास में उसका पूरा आंकड़ा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि गोल्डन ट्राएंगल के रूप में काबुल अफगानिस्तान का बहुत बड़ा रोल था 1978, 1979 में जब काबुल मे एशियन फोर्सेस आई और वह गोल्डन ट्राएंगल की चेन जब ब्रेक को गई तो उन्होंने भारत को यूज़ करना शुरू किया और उसके बाद से भारत में इस तरह के व्यापार की शुरूआत हुई। पर उसमें जिस तरह से अफगनिस्तान में भी एंटी नेशनल एक्टिविटीज़ की शुरूआत भी ड्रग के साथ हुई थी भारत में भी टैरोरिस्ट्स का लिंक पाया गया। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या इनके पास ऐसी कोई सूचना है ड्रग ट्रैफिकिंग के साथ में टैरोरिस्ट एक्टिविटीज़ सीधे जुड़ी हुई है चाहे बम्बई का अंडरवर्ल्ड का डॉन हो, चाहे काश्मीर का डॉन हो, चाहे पंजाब का डॉन हो, वह कहीं न कहीं नारकोटिक्स स्मगलिंग के साथ में जुड़ा हुआ है? नार्थ-ईस्ट मे भी सारा कारोबार ड्रग पर है। सभापति महोदय, मैं साथ-साथ यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि हमारे यहां दो पहलू हैं एक है क्लैडेस्टाइन और दूसरा है परमिटेड। हमारे देश में सब से ज्यादा अफीम की खेती मध्य प्रदेश में होती है और जिसकी परमिशन सरकार देती है, मंदसौर जिले में होती है जो कि राजस्थान के बॉर्डर के साथ में लगता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am concluding, Sir.

और राजस्थान पाकिस्तान के बार्डर से लगता है और यह सब पाकिस्तान, राजस्थान और मध्य प्रदेश से होता है। सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकार ने इस साल पर हेक्टेयर अफीम की खेती कितने हेक्टेयर...(व्यवधान)

MR.CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am asking the question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time. Please put the question.

SHRI S.S. ALHLUWALIA: I am putting the question. My question is: what is the extent of land on which they have given permission to grow opium and hafeem? और इस बार इन्होंने प्रति हेक्टेयर प्रोडक्शन का क्या रेट रखा है क्योंकि हर साल ये रेट बदल देते हैं। खंडवा और मंदसौर जिले से यह सारी शुरुआत होती है। उस पर परमिटेड परमीशन जो है, उस पर क्या रोक है, यह बताए।

श्री नरेश यादव: क्या सरकार अफीम की खेती बंद करने का निर्देश देती?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in regard to the first part of his question, while answering an earlier supplementary, all that I said was that it would not be possible for me to put a percentage of the international traffic that goes through India. How can I say that it is 60 per cent or 70 per cent. This is what I said. Not that we do not have the figures of seizures. Not that we are unable to indicate whether there is a growing tendency for smuggling. I have

given those figures. I concede that India is extremely vulnerable because it is placed between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent. The hon. Member is quite right. There is a lot of activity on the Indo-Pak border; there was, rather. Now, with the fencing of the border, we think we have also the evidence to support this— smuggling has shifted to Jammu and Kashmir. There is activity in the North-East also. It is rather well known.

There is, of course, a link between narcotics traffic and terrorism. This is now a new area of studynarco-terrorism. I would not be able to give any details in the House, but clearly, there is a link between narcotics traffic and terrorism. We are vigilant on that and we will continue to be vigilant on that.

Sir, on the question of opium, it is now legal. It can be grown in India, under permission. I am sorry, I do not have the figures in regard to the acreage on which we have permitted opium to be grown, for the current year, and the production per acre. I would furnish these figures to the hon. Member during the course of this week.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 183. (*Interruptions*)

Cases pending before various courts in the country

*183. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware that 25 million cases are still pending before the various courts in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken (State-wise) so far for the expeditious disposal of cases so as to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the common man indicating the States which have the highest/lowest pending cases; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to call a joint meeting of Chief Justices of the High Courts of all the States to evolve some expeditious method to cut down arrears within the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPTT. OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPTT. AND DEPTT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir, the Government is aware that approximately 25 million cases are pending.

(b) and (c) The Law Commissions and various Committee, have gone into the question of pendency in Courts. The Arears Committee, also known as Malimath Committee, submitted its report in this regard during 1991. Based on its recommendations, the problem of arrears in Courts was considered, to find ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible in a Conference of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts, held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister during December 1993. Administration of Justice, below the High Court level being the primary responsibility of the State Government and High Courts, the Resolutions adopted in the Conference have been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and the High Courts for necessary action. Progress of implementation in this regard is being reviewed from year to year in the Conference of Law Ministers, the last of such reviews was held in Hyderabad during November 1995.

2. In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been introduced for providing infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary, which will supplement the resources of the States. The National Judicial Academy has been set up as a Central project with the CJI as the Chairman of